(b) Two Committees appointed by the Government of India in the recent past have made recommendations for the establishment of an Education Commission in Health Sciences, namely:—

(i) The Medical Education Review Committee, whose report was placed before the Parliament on the 2nd May, 1986, had made a recommendation for the establishment of an autonomous Medical and Health Education Commission, which would be responsible for coordination, planning and implementation of various medical and health education programmes in all branches of health sciences, planning for the development of health manpower, allocation of funds and disbursement of grants to medical and health institutions, etc. This recommendation has been accepted in principle.

(ii) The Expert Committee on Health Manpower, Production and Management (Dr. Bajaj Committee) (1987) recommended that Education Commission Health Sciences should be established as a Central organisation in the field of professional education in health-related matters, on the lines of the University Grants Commission. The operational framework of the Commission would include:

(i) to provide realistic projections for national health manpower requirements;

(ii) provide facilities for production of projected health manpower including the establishment of one or more Universities of Health Sciences;

(iii) to implement desired changes in the curricular contents of training programmes for health personnel;

(iv) to facilitate the establishment of essential interlinkages between health functionaries of various grades; and

(v) to liaise with all existing professional councils and recommend, if necessary, establishment of council for other categories of health professionals, etc.

The recommendations of the above Committees would be kept in view while deciding the functions and the structure of the proposed Commission.

Proposal to phase out Adult Education Centres

1656. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to phase out adult education centres throughout the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the details of the results achieved by these centres so far; and

(d) whether any alternative scheme is being contemplated by Government to remove illiteracy amongst the adults in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) The National Adult Education Programme (NAEP), introduced on 2nd

October, 1988, sought to achieve the objectives of imparting functional literacy to 100 million adult illiterates mainly through the centre based programme. Even though the programme worked well in some parts of the country, it suffered a set back because of dull, unattractive and demotivating teaching/learning environment, improper selection of staff, lack of commitment among the functionaries, poor quality of training, faulty management system, irregular attendance of the learners, emphasis on enrolment rather than on attainment of predetermined norms of literacy and numeracy, lack of linkage between basic literacy, post literacy and continuing education leading to relapse of neo literates into the world of illiteracy and host of other factors. Under the National Literacy Mission, which aims at imparting functional literacy to 80.00 million adult illiterates in age group of 15-35 by 1995, increasing emphasis is being laid on total literacy in specified areas within a definite time frame through mass campaigns which are volunteer based, cost-effective and result-oriented. It would be the endeavour of the Government to take up total literacy campaigns in as many districts/states as possible and to phase out the traditional centre based projects as early as possible. The centre based programme in a modified form which is area specific, Small and Compact and timebound would hereafter be taken up only in such remote, hilly, desert and educationally backward areas where sufficient number of volunteers are not available to organise the programme through mass campaigns for total literacy. Besides, the State of Kerala which has already achieved total literacy, Goa and Gujarat and Union Territory of Pondicherry. total literacy campaigns have already been taken up in 45 districts in different States/Union Territories. It is proposed to take up such total literacy campaigns in 25-30 additional districts during the current financial year.

Literacy Rate

1657. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) name of the states according to the provisional census 1991 having the low percentage of literacy stating the literacy rate in each state for men and women separately;

(b) the percentage of short-fall in the literacy rate as against the projected literacy rate in each state; and

(c) the specific education projects for which central assistance is proposed to be given to each of these State Governments to raise the literacy rate?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) A Statement showing State-wise male and female literacy rates according to the 1991 provisional Census figures is attached. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli have literacy rates below the national average of 52.11%.

(c) Universalisation of elementary education and universal retention in schools of children upto 14 years of age, a programme of non-formal education in the ten educationally backward States and the National Literacy Mission which aims at imparting functional literacy to 80 million adult illiterates in the 15-35 age-group by 1995 form an integral part of a larger programme for eradication of illiteracy in the country. In addition, an externally funded project on primary education is under implementation in Andhra Pradesh and such assistance is also being explored for similar projects in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.